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REMARKS

The Office Action restricts the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 121 on the basis that the claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Group I (claims 23-26) corresponding to Figure 6;
Group II (claims 27-32) corresponding to Figure 9; and
Group III (claims 33-39) corresponding to Figure 7.

The office action states that claim 33 reads on figures 7 and 9, but is not generic, i.e., it does not read on figure 6. Applicants believe claim 33, as amended, is generic to figures 6, 7 and 9. Therefore, applicants provisionally elect the Group III claims 33-39 and new claim 40 with traverse and withdraw the Group I and Group II claims.

Claim 33, as amended, recites an amplifier (e.g., 52-55) that includes, among other features, a gain stage (e.g., 53, 55) having an input for receiving an input signal and first and second outputs (e.g., the outputs of amplifiers 53, 55) for providing a differential amplified signal. An output stage includes first and second depletion mode transistors (e.g., 52, 54) operating in response to the differential amplified signal and serially coupled between a supply terminal (e.g., V_{IN}) and an output of the amplifier (e.g., drain of transistor 54) for providing an output signal (e.g., V_{OUT}).

Figures 7 and 9 continue to read on claim 33 as amended. With respect to figure 6, amplifiers 53 and 55 are construed as forming a gain stage. Since voltage divider 60, 62 produces a first divided voltage at the noninverting input of amplifier 55 while voltage divider 64, 66 produces a second divided voltage at the inverting input of amplifier 55, the resulting signal produced

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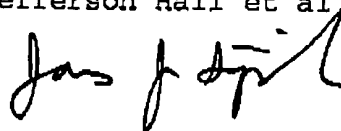
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across the outputs of amplifiers 53 and 55 is a differential amplified signal. Hence, figure 6 reads on claim 33.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe claim 33 as amended is a generic claim in that it reads on the embodiments described and shown in figures 6-7 and 9.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement and the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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*Please call if there are any questions.
Thank you.*